



STATE OF WASHINGTON
WASHINGTON STATE BOARD OF HEALTH
1102 SE Quince Street • PO Box 47990
Olympia, Washington 98504-7990

March 18, 2004

Secretary Mary Selecky
Washington State Department of Health
1112 SE Quince
PO Box 47890
Olympia, WA 98504-7890

Dear Secretary Selecky:

The State Board of Health is pleased that it can continue to serve as an advisory body to you on the selection of candidates for the Warren Featherstone Reid Award for Excellence in Health Care.

The current cycle began when Chair Linda Lake issued a call for nominations in October 2003. The nomination review committee convened February 13, 2004, to review nominations received by the December 31, 2003, deadline. Present were Linda Lake, State Board of Health (SBOH) chair; Craig McLaughlin, SBOH Staff; Scott Bond, Providence St. Peter Hospital; Bob Blacksmith, Health Care Authority; and Dr. Maxine Hayes, Department of Health (Dr. Dick Seaman was unable to participate).

After discussing the strong qualifications of all five nominees, the committee reached consensus to forward the nominations of Ellen Jeffcott, R.D.H., B.S. and Inland Northwest Health Services to the Board and to recommend that both be forwarded to Secretary Selecky for further consideration.

The group felt that individuals and organizations are not easily compared and that it might be unfair to ask individuals to compete against organizations. The committee therefore recommends that it become standard practice to treat individuals and organizations as two distinct categories and to forward a nomination from each category if there are qualified candidates. The authorizing statute considered only a single award but does not appear to preclude a dual award.

At its Board meeting on March 10, 2004, the Board passed a motion to accept the recommendation of the nomination review committee and transmit both applications for your consideration.

Ellen Jeffcott, R.D.H, B.S., is manager of the Oral Health Program of Public Health—Seattle & King County. She is also a founding member of the Washington State Oral Health Coalition and affiliate faculty at the University of Washington School of Dentistry. The nomination and letters of support highlighted her management of the five dental clinics, her commitment to improving access, particularly for low-income children, and her leadership in implementing such interventions as applying sealants and the use of fluoride.

Secretary Mary Selecky

March 18, 2004

Page 2 of 2

Inland Northwest Health Services is a collaboration that provides telemedicine links between 46 hospitals and other facilities in the Inland Northwest. Its TeleHealth program, which includes TeleTrauma, TelePharmacy, and TeleEducation, controls costs, improves access, and increases the quality of care received in rural communities.

The nomination review committee noted that both nominations were accompanied by strong data and documentation. Committee members also commented that both nominees are regularly looked to as leaders in their fields. Nomination materials for both are attached.

The Board appreciates having this opportunity to honor the memory of Warren Featherstone Reid and to continue to encourage the kind of commitment and compassion that Feather brought to the development of health policy in Washington State.

Sincerely,

Craig McLaughlin, Acting Executive Director
Washington State Board of Health

cc: Scott Bond, Providence-St. Peter's Hospital
Maxine Hayes, Department of Health
Bob Blacksmith, Health Care Authority
State Board of Health Members

Attachments